

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
18 September 2003 (18.09.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 03/077038 A2(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G03F 7/20(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US03/06825

(22) International Filing Date: 4 March 2003 (04.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/362,052 5 March 2002 (05.03.2002) US(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR).

## Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

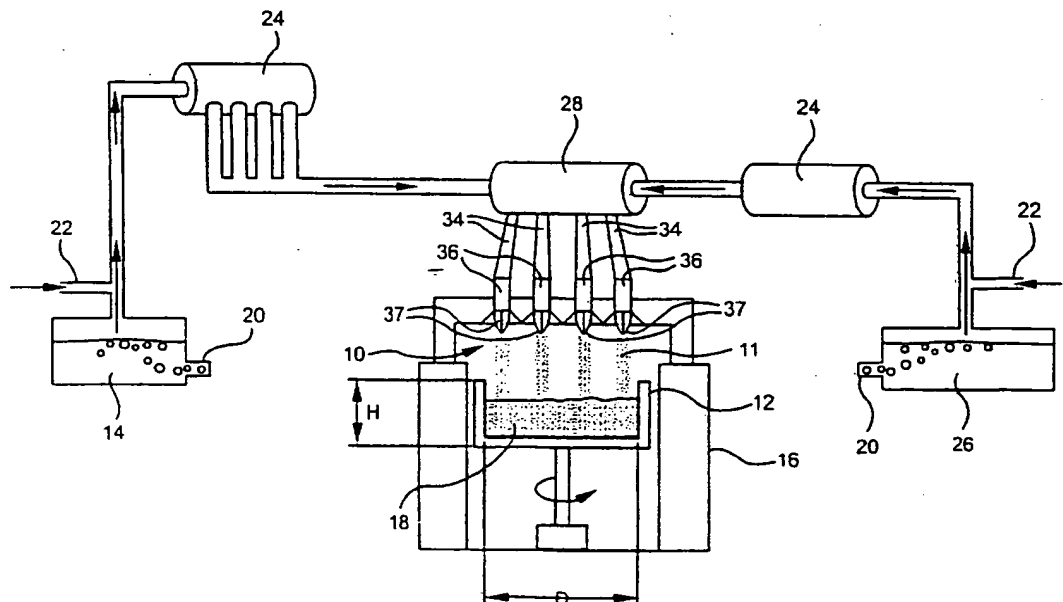
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(54) Title: REDUCED STRIAE EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET ELEMENTS



(57) Abstract: Titania-containing silica glass bodies and extreme ultraviolet elements having low levels of striae are disclosed. Methods and apparatus for manufacturing and measuring striae in glass elements and extreme ultraviolet elements are also disclosed.

## REDUCED STRIAE EXTREME ULTRAVIOLET ELEMENTS

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** This invention relates to extreme ultraviolet elements made from glasses including silica and titania. More particularly, the invention relates to extreme ultraviolet elements having reduced striae and methods and apparatus for making such elements and measuring striae.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0002]** Ultra low expansion glasses and soft x-ray or extreme ultraviolet (EUV) lithographic elements made from silica and titania traditionally have been made by flame hydrolysis of organometallic precursors of silica and titania. Ultra-low expansion silica-titania articles of glass made by the flame hydrolysis method are used in the manufacture of elements used in mirrors for telescopes used in space exploration and extreme ultraviolet or soft x-ray-based lithography. These lithography elements are used with extreme ultraviolet or soft x-ray radiation to illuminate, project and reduce pattern images that are utilized to form integrated circuit patterns. The use of extreme ultraviolet or soft x-ray radiation is beneficial in that smaller integrated circuit features can be achieved, however, the manipulation and direction of radiation in this wavelength range is difficult. Accordingly, wavelengths in the extreme ultraviolet or soft x-ray range, such as in the 1 nm to 70 nm range, have not been widely used in commercial applications. One of the limitations in this area has been the inability to economically manufacture mirror elements that can withstand exposure to such radiation while maintaining a stable and high quality circuit pattern image. Thus, there is a need for stable high quality glass lithographic elements containing for use with extreme soft x-ray radiation.

**[0003]** One limitation of ultra low expansion titania-silica glass made in accordance with the method described above is that the glass contains striae. Striae are compositional inhomogeneities which adversely affect optical transmission in lens and window elements made from the glass. Striae can be measured by a microprobe that measures compositional variations that correlate to coefficient of

thermal expansion (CTE) variations of a few ppb/°C. In some cases, striae have been found to impact surface finish at an angstrom root mean rms level in reflective optic elements made from the glass. Extreme ultraviolet lithographic elements require finishes having a very low rms level.

[0004] It would be advantageous to provide improved methods and apparatus for manufacturing ultra low expansion glasses containing silica and titania. In particular, it would be desirable to provide extreme ultraviolet elements having reduced striae and methods and apparatus that are capable of producing such glass elements. In addition, it would be desirable to provide improved methods and apparatus for measuring striae in ultra low expansion glass and extreme ultraviolet lithographic elements.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The invention relates to ultra low expansion glass extreme ultraviolet optical or lithographic elements and methods for their manufacture. Methods and apparatus are provided for producing ultra low expansion glass bodies and extreme ultraviolet optical or lithographic elements having decreased striae. As used herein, the terms extreme ultraviolet (abbreviated as EUV) and soft x-ray will be used interchangeably to refer to short wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation between 1 nm and 70 nm. Presently, lithographic systems that utilize EUV radiation operate between 5 and 15 nm, and typically around 13 nm.

[0006] According to one embodiment of the invention, an extreme ultraviolet lithographic element is provided that includes a titania-containing silica glass having a polished and shaped surface and having a rms striae level less than about 0.05 mega Pascals. In another embodiment, the element has a peak to valley striae level less than about 0.2 mega Pascals. In certain embodiments, the glass contains between about 5 and 10 weight percent titania and has a coefficient of thermal expansion in the range of about + 30 ppb/° C to -30 ppb/° C between about 20° C and 35° C. In still other embodiments, the glass contains between about 6 weight % titania and 8 weight % titania and has a homogeneous CTE in the range of about + 20 ppb/° C to -20 ppb/° C between about 20° C and 35° C.

[0007] Still another embodiment of the invention relates to a method of manufacturing an extreme ultraviolet lithography element. The method includes the steps of providing a silicon-containing feedstock and a titanium-containing feedstock, delivering the feedstocks to a conversion site, and converting the feedstocks into titania-containing silica soot. The method further includes consolidating the titania-containing silica soot into a low inclusion, homogeneous titania-containing silica glass preform and finishing the titanium-containing glass preform into an extreme ultraviolet lithographic element having an rms striae level less than about 0.05 mega Pascals.

[0008] In certain embodiments, the conversion site includes a furnace having exhaust vents and the method includes maintaining said striae level by controlling exhaust vent flow during the manufacturing process. In some embodiments, the method includes providing the furnace with more than six exhaust vents. In other embodiments, the striae level is controlled by adjusting the distance between the preform and the burner. In still other embodiments, the soot is deposited into a cup mounted on an oscillating table and the striae level is reduced by altering the oscillation pattern of the table, and in particular by increasing the rotation rate of the table. For example, in some embodiments, the rotation rate of the boule is greater than about 6 rpm.

[0009] Another embodiment of the invention relates to a method of measuring striae in an extreme ultraviolet lithographic element which includes utilizing a polariscope to measure the optical retardance in the element as a function of position and converting the optical retardance to stress values. According to this embodiment, after the optical retardance as a function of position is measured, the retardance values are converted to a stress level value by knowing the path length, i.e. the thickness, over which optical retardance is measured and the stress optical coefficient of the material. In some embodiments, the polariscope has a sensitivity of at least 0.05 nm, and in other embodiments, the polariscope utilizes a light source having a beam size less than the spacing of the striae in the extreme ultraviolet lithographic element.

[0010] Thus, according to the present invention, extreme ultraviolet elements having reduced striae and methods and apparatus are provided for the manufacture

of these elements and measurement of striae in these elements. Methods and apparatus are also provided for measuring low levels of striae in glasses and extreme ultraviolet elements.

[0011] Additional advantages of the invention will be set forth in the following detailed description. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing of an apparatus for manufacturing ultra low expansion glass according to one embodiment of the invention;

[0013] FIG. 2 is a schematic drawing of an apparatus for manufacturing ultra low expansion glass according to one embodiment of the invention; and

[0014] FIG. 3 is a graph comparing striae measurement techniques utilizing a polariscope and utilizing a microprobe.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The invention provides glass bodies and extreme ultraviolet elements having low thermal expansion and homogeneous titanium concentrations and methods and apparatus for their manufacture. The methods and apparatus are particularly beneficial for the manufacture of extreme ultraviolet optical elements such as lithography substrates for both lithography masks and lithography mirror optics. The methods and apparatus substantially reduce striae problems encountered during the formation of boules, particularly when the glass is ground and polished into a curved mirror reflective surface that cuts across the planar striae levels.

[0016] The invention further pertains to making thermally stable EUV lithography structure objects such as optical mirror lithography element substrate structures and reflective lithography mask element substrate structures. PCT patent publication WO 01/08163, entitled EUV SOFT X-RAY PROJECTION LITHOGRAPHIC METHOD SYSTEM AND LITHOGRAPHY ELEMENTS commonly assigned to CORNING INCORPORATED and naming Davis et al. as inventors and

WO 01/07967, entitled EUV SOFT X-RAY PROJECTION LITHOGRAPHIC METHOD AND MASK DEVICES commonly assigned to CORNING INCORPORATED and naming Davis et al. as inventors, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference discloses EUV lithography mirror element and mask structures.

**[0017]** According to the present invention, methods and apparatus are provided for the production ultra low expansion titania-silica glass used in the manufacture of extreme ultraviolet lithographic elements. In overview, silica-titania powders are manufactured as shown in Fig. 1 through flame hydrolysis of silica-containing and titanium-containing feedstocks.

**[0018]** As shown in Fig. 1, a conventional apparatus for the manufacture of titania-containing silica glasses includes high purity silicon-containing feedstock or precursor 14 and high purity titanium-containing feedstock or precursor 26. The feedstock or precursor materials are typically siloxanes, alkoxides and tetrachlorides containing titanium or silicon. One particular commonly used silicon-containing feedstock material is octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, and one particular commonly used titanium-containing feedstock material is titanium isopropoxide. An inert bubbler gas 20 such as nitrogen is bubbled through feedstocks 14 and 26, to produce mixtures containing the feedstock vapors and carrier gas. An inert carrier gas 22 such as nitrogen is combined with the silicon feedstock vapor and bubbler gas mixture and with the titanium feedstock vapor and bubbler gas mixture to prevent saturation and to deliver the feedstock materials 14, 26 to a conversion site 10 within furnace 16 through distribution systems 24 and manifold 28. The silicon feedstock and vapor and titanium feedstock and vapor are mixed in a manifold 28 to form a vaporous, titanium-containing silica glass precursor mixture which is delivered through conduits 34 to burners 36 mounted in the upper portion 38 of the furnace 16. The burners 36 produce burner flames 37. Conversion site burner flames 37 are formed with a fuel and oxygen mixture such as methane mixed with hydrogen and/or oxygen, which combusts, oxidizes and converts the feedstocks at temperatures greater than about 1600° C into soot 11. The burner flames 37 also provide heat to consolidate the soot 11 into glass. The temperature of the conduits

34 and the feedstocks contained in the conduits are typically controlled and monitored in minimize the possibility of reactions prior to the flames 37.

**[0019]** The feedstocks are delivered to a conversion site 10, where they are converted into titania-containing silica soot particles 11. The soot 11 is deposited in a revolving collection cup 12 located in a refractory furnace 16 typically made from zircon and onto the upper glass surface of a hot titania-silica glass body 18 inside the furnace 16. The soot particles 11 consolidate into a titania-containing high purity silica glass body.

**[0020]** The cup 12 typically has a circular diameter shape of between about 0.2 meters and 2 meters so that the glass body 18 is a cylindrical body having a diameter D between about 0.2 and 2 meters and a height H between about 2 cm and 20 cm. The weight percent of titania in the fused silica glass can be adjusted by changing the amount of either the titanium feedstock or silicon-containing feedstock delivered to the conversion site 10 that is incorporated into the soot 11 and the glass 18. The amount of titania and/or silica is adjusted so that the glass body has a coefficient of thermal expansion of about zero at the operating temperature of an EUV or soft x-ray reflective lithography or mirror element.

**[0021]** The powders are collected in the cup and consolidated into a glass boule. Typically, temperatures above 1600° C are sufficient to consolidate the powder into a glass boule. After a boule of the desired size is formed, the glass boule can be removed from the furnace for further processing.

**[0022]** Referring now to Fig. 2, which shows the furnace in more detail, the furnace 16 further includes crown 40 which carries a plurality of burners 37 which produce silica soot. Further details on the structure and operation of furnaces of this type may be found in commonly assigned United States patent number 5,951,730, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. Particular details on burner configurations for making fused silica boules may be found in commonly-assigned PCT patent publication number WO 00/17115. The furnace 16 also includes a plurality of exhaust ports or vents 42, evenly spaced around the circumference of the furnace. Typically, a furnace 16 includes 6 exhaust ports 42. The furnace further includes a ring wall 44 which supports the crown 40. The furnace also includes a rotatable base 46 mounted on an oscillation table 48 that

less striae than titania-silica glass near the top of the cup. This led to the conclusion that both the distance of the burners from the bottom of the cup and the depth of the cup impact striae, and that a deeper cup and increasing the distance between the burners and the boule surface should reduce striae.

**[0031]** In another aspect of the invention, improved methods for measuring striae were developed. One way for measuring striae in titania-silica glass involves using a microprobe, which measures titania concentration in the glass at one micron intervals. One disadvantage of using a microprobe for measuring striae is that such measurements are very time consuming and extensive sample preparation is required. Thus, the use of a microprobe for regularly measuring striae is not cost-effective.

**[0032]** Applicants have discovered that a polariscope, which measures optical retardation in glass samples, can be used to measure striae in titania-silica glass. As polarized light propagates through a strained glass or plastic material, it experiences a retardation proportional to the amount of stress. A polariscope is an instrument which quantitatively measures this retardation. Stress in a sample can be determined by knowing the amount of retardation, the path length of light through the sample, which is typically the sample thickness, and the birefringence or stress optical constant of a sample which is a known value. United States patent number 4,668,086 contains more information on the operation and construction of a polariscope.

**[0033]** Thus, the polariscope measures retardance through a sample as a function of position. The spatial resolution of a polariscope is much smaller than the size of the striae in titania-silica glass and therefore allows for measurement through striae layers. The retardance observed in the polariscope indicates stresses between striae layers, which are most likely due to thermal expansion mismatch between the layers. Figure 3 shows a comparison of striae measurements made on a sample. The lower line in Figure 3 represents striae measurements made by a polariscope, and the upper line represents measurements made by a microprobe. The polariscope used is available from Cambridge Research Instrumentation, Model LC, which was used with a Nikon microscope. As indicated by Figure 3, there is good correlation between the two techniques, which shows that the polariscope can



be used to measure striae in titania-silica glass and optical elements such as extreme ultraviolet lithographic elements. An advantage of using a polariscope is that method is very sensitive (as high as 0.01 nm), and light beam sizes smaller than the spacing of the striae (e.g., 50-300 microns) can be used.

**[0034]** It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An extreme ultraviolet lithographic element comprising:  
a titania-containing silica glass having a polished and shaped surface and having a rms striae level less than 0.05 mega Pascals.
2. The lithography element of claim 1, wherein the element has a peak to valley striae level less than 0.2 mega Pascals.
3. The lithography element of claim 2, wherein the glass contains between 5 and 10 weight percent titania and has a coefficient of thermal expansion in the range of + 30 ppb/° C to -30 ppb/° C between 20° C and 35° C.
4. The lithography element of claim 2, wherein the glass contains between 6 weight % titania and 8 weight % titania and has a homogeneous CTE in the range of + 20 ppb/° C to -20 ppb/° C between about 20° C and 35° C.
5. A method of manufacturing an extreme ultraviolet lithography element comprising:  
providing a silicon-containing feedstock and a titanium containing feedstock;  
delivering the silicon-containing feedstock and titanium-containing feedstock to a conversion site;  
converting the silicon-containing feedstock and titanium-containing feedstock into titania-containing silica soot;  
consolidating the titania-containing silica soot into an inclusion-free, homogeneous titanium-containing silica glass preform; and  
finishing the titanium-containing glass preform into an extreme ultraviolet lithographic element having a rms striae level less than 0.05 mega Pascals.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the conversion site includes a furnace having exhaust vents and the method includes maintaining said striae level by controlling exhaust vent flow during the manufacturing process.

7. The method of claim 5, further including providing the furnace with more than six exhaust vents.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the striae level is modified by adjusting the distance between the preform and the burner.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein soot is deposited into a cup mounted on an oscillating table and the striae level is decreased by increasing the rotation rate of the table.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the rotation rate of the boule is greater than 6 rpm.
11. A method of measuring striae in an extreme ultraviolet lithographic element comprising utilizing a polariscope to measure the optical retardance in the element as a function of position and converting the optical retardance to stress values.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the polariscope has a sensitivity of at least 0.05 nm.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the polariscope utilizes light source having a beam size less than the spacing of the striae in the element.

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FIG. 1

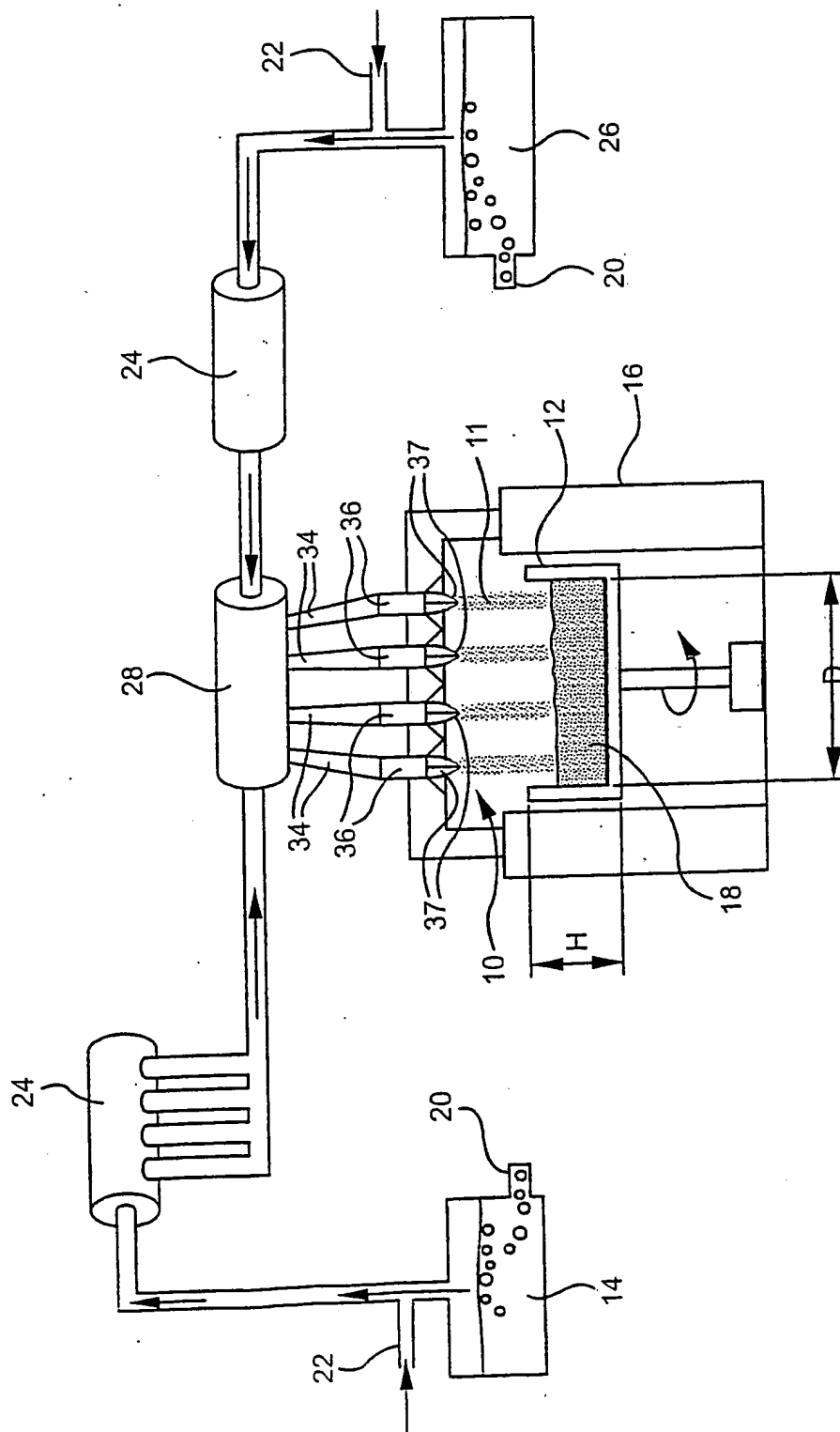
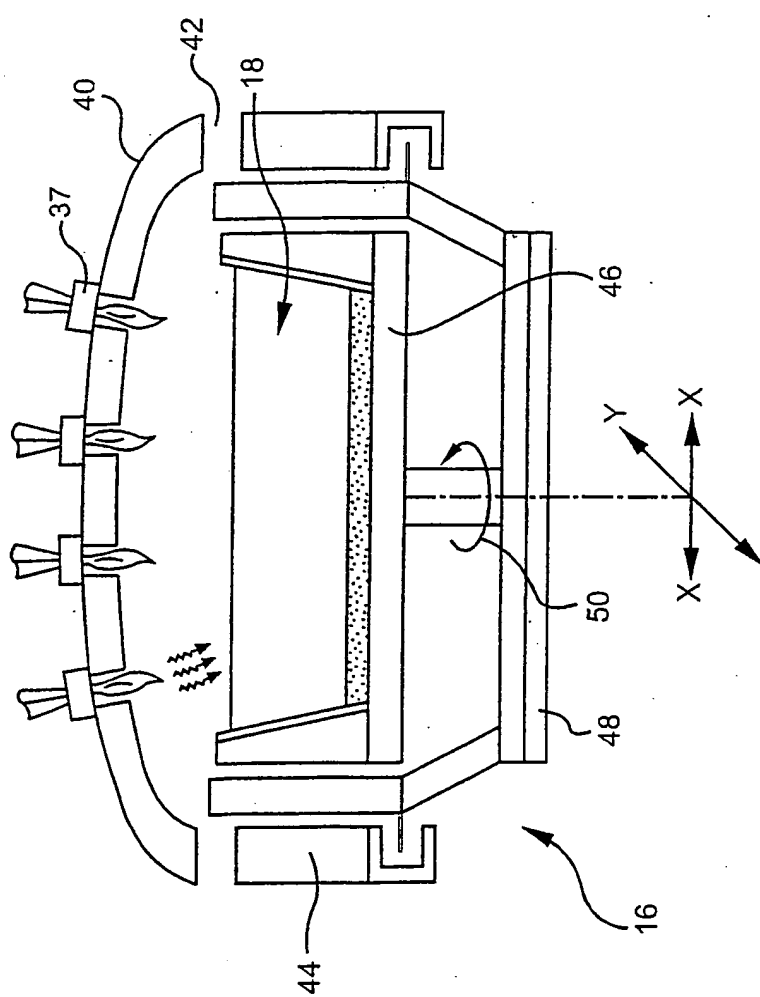
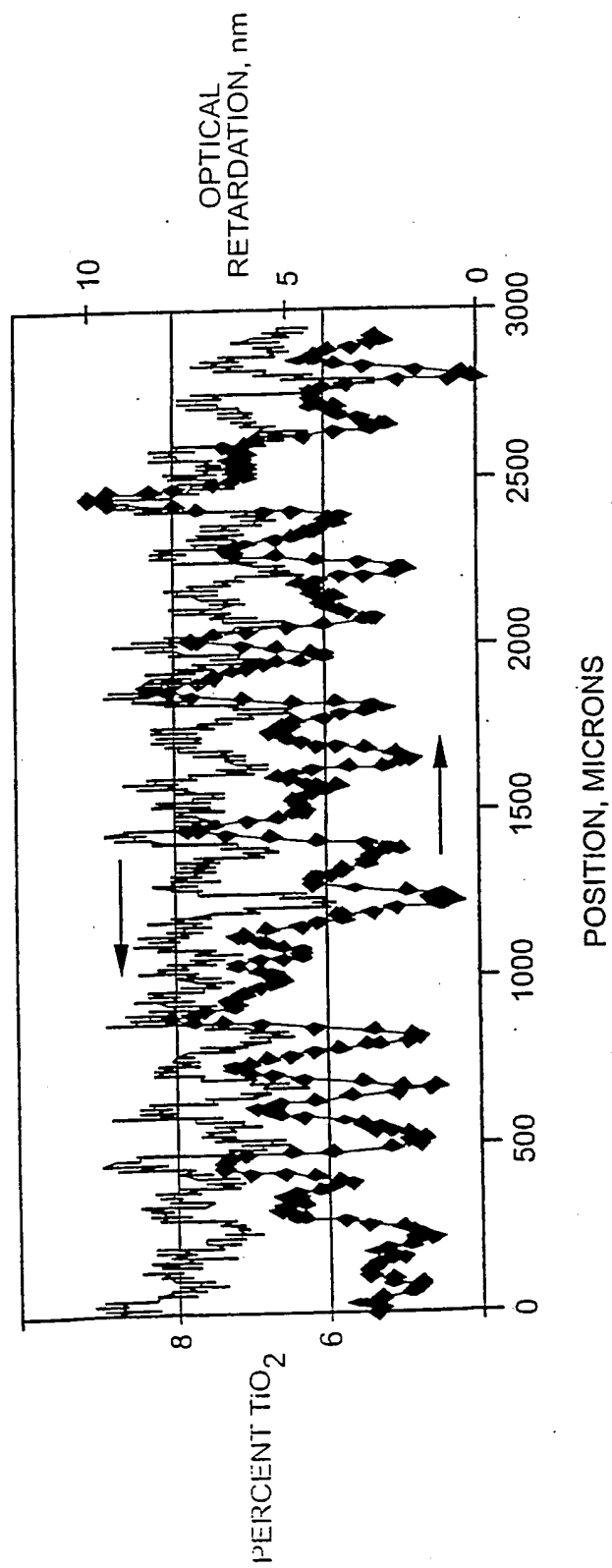


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3



(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 September 2003 (18.09.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2003/077038 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G03F 7/20**,  
G01B 11/16, G01N 21/23, C03B 19/14, C03C 3/06, 4/00

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/006825

(22) International Filing Date: 4 March 2003 (04.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/362,052 5 March 2002 (05.03.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
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SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC,  
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): European patent (AT, BE,  
BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU,  
IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR).

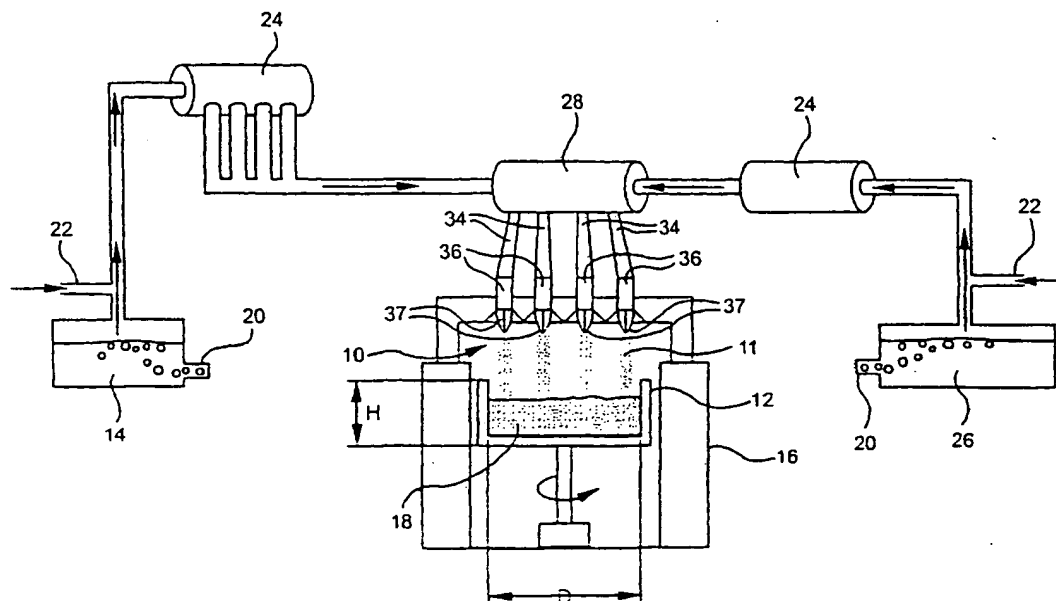
**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
18 March 2004

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: REDUCED STRIAE EXTREME ULTRAVIOLEGT LITHOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS, A METHOD OF MANUFAC-  
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(57) Abstract: Titania-containing silica glass bodies and extreme ultraviolet elements having low levels of striae are disclosed. Methods and apparatus for manufacturing and measuring striae in glass elements and extreme ultraviolet elements are also disclosed.

WO 2003/077038 A3

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Patent Classification No.  
 PCT/US 03/06825

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
 IPC 7 G03F7/20 G01B11/16 G01N21/23 C03B19/14 C03C3/06  
 C03C4/00

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## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G03F G01B G01N C03B C03C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/02/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Information on patent family members

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